

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 NEA-10  
EB-08 AID-05 STR-07 COME-00 LAB-04 TRSE-00 OES-09  
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 ABF-01 HUD-01 HEW-04  
AGRE-00 DOE-15 SOE-02 OIC-02 SAS-02 /137 W  
-----109032 251743Z /44

R 251604Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7724  
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY OSLO  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM  
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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UNIDO

E.O. 11652:N/A  
TAGS: PORG, UNIDO  
SUBJECT: UNIDO: MEMBERSHIP ON INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD

1. AUSTRALIAN ALTERNATE PERMREP ROSS SMITH HAS INFORMED  
MISSION THAT GOA HAS DECIDED TO SEEK ELECTION BY 33RD UNGA  
TO UNIDO'S INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD (IDB) FOR A THREE-  
YEAR TERM BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 1979. GOA IS ATTEMPTING TO  
OBTAIN CANADA'S AND NEW ZEALAND'S SUPPORT FOR THE POSITION  
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THAT ONE OF THE 15 GROUP B SEATS ON THE IDB SHOULD IN PRIN-  
CIPLE BE RESERVED FOR AN "OTHER COMMONWEALTH" COUNTRY, BUT,  
REGARDLESS OF OUTCOME OF THESE EFFORTS, GOA IS APPARENTLY  
PREPARED TO PRESS ITS CANDIDACY FOR ELECTION THIS YEAR  
VIGOROUSLY ON ITS OWN. QUESTION IS WHICH OF OTHER PROBA-  
BLE CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION TO THE IDB THIS YEAR WILL BE  
WILLING TO RETIRE TO MAKE ROOM FOR AUSTRALIA.

2. THE FIVE GROUP B COUNTRIES WHOSE TERMS EXPIRE THIS YEAR ARE: UK, FRG, DENMARK, GREECE AND TURKEY. EXCEPT FOR DENMARK, NONE HAS GIVEN ANY INDICATION THAT IT WILL NOT BE A CANDIDATE FOR RE-ELECTION. UK AND FRG, AS MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS, EXPECT RE-ELECTION AS A MATTER OF COURSE. GREECE AND TURKEY REPRESENT LESS DEVELOPED FRINGE OF GROUP B AND, IN ABSENCE OF ANY SHOW OF INTEREST BY SPAIN OR PORTUGAL, PRESUMABLY EXPECT TO CONTINUE ON BOARD. THE FOUR NORDIC COUNTRIES (DENMARK, FINLAND, NORWAY AND SWEDEN) HAVE IN THE PAST SHARED THREE SEATS ON A ROTATIONAL BASIS WITH ONE OF THE FOUR SITTING OUT EACH YEAR. UNDER THIS FORMULA, SWEDEN WHICH IS NOT A MEMBER OF THE IDB THIS YEAR, WOULD RETURN TO THE BOARD IN 1979, SUCCEEDING DENMARK.

3. SMITH SAID GOA'S MAIN HOPE IS THAT THE NORDICS WILL AGREE TO GIVE UP ONE OF THEIR SEATS, WITH SWEDEN SITTING OUT FOR AN EXTRA YEAR. HE PERSONALLY IS NOT SANGUINE IN VIEW OF SWEDEN'S ACTIVE INTEREST IN UNIDO AND SUBSTANTIAL FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS. HE IS RECOMMENDING TO CANBERRA THAT GOA NOT ENTER INTO PUBLIC "CONFRONTATION" WITH SWEDEN BECAUSE HE THINKS AUSTRALIA "WITH NO TRACK RECORD" WOULD BE BOUND TO LOSE.

4. IN RESPONSE TO SMITH'S QUESTION ABOUT U.S. ATTITUDE, PERMREP SAID USG WOULD NOT, OF COURSE, TAKE AN OFFICIAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POSITION UNTIL FACED WITH A CONCRETE QUESTION. HE WAS SURE U.S. WOULD BE HAPPY TO SEE AUSTRALIA AS A MEMBER OF THE IDB, PROVIDED THIS COULD BE WORKED OUT BY MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY AGREEMENT AMONG THE POTENTIAL CANDIDATE COUNTRIES SO THAT THE U.S. AND OTHER GROUP B MEMBERS WOULD NOT HAVE TO FACE A DIFFICULT POLITICAL CHOICE BETWEEN FRIENDLY COUNTRIES. HE SUGGESTED THAT GOA CONSULT BILATERALLY WITH SWEDEN (AND WITH GREECE AND TURKEY) TO EXPLAIN AUSTRALIAN INTERESTS AND DETERMINE OTHERS' INTENTIONS. SMITH AGREED THAT THIS WOULD BE OBVIOUS FIRST STEP ALTHOUGH AS FAR AS HE KNEW, GOA HAD NOT YET TAKEN IT.

5. COMMENT: SMITH'S PREDECESSOR, DOUGLAS TOWNSEND, WAS ONE OF MOST ACTIVE, INTERESTED AND ARTICULATE MEMBERS OF GROUP B VIENNA. HE STRONGLY FAVORED AUSTRALIA'S SEEKING AN IDB SEAT AND, WHEN HE WAS RETURNING TO CANBERRA ON RE-ASSIGNMENT LAST JUNE, TOLD THIS MISSION HE INTENDED TO PRESS HARD FOR A POSITIVE DECISION FROM HIS AUTHORITIES. HE APPARENTLY SUCCEEDED.

6. MISSION BELIEVES THAT AUSTRALIAN MEMBERSHIP ON IDB WOULD PROVIDE A USEFUL BROADENING OF THE MEMBERSHIP AND,

ON BASIS OF PAST PERFORMANCE, WOULD BE CONSTRUCTIVE FROM  
STANDPOINT OF U.S. INTERESTS. LOOKING AHEAD TO THE TIME  
WHEN UNIDO MAY BECOME A SPECIALIZED AGENCY, WE THINK IT  
WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO HAVE ESTABLISHED THE PRINCIPLE OF  
AN "OTHER COMMONWEALTH" SEAT SINCE ANY OF THE THREE  
LIKELY HOLDERS OF THE SEAT COULD BE EXPECTED TO TAKE A  
REASONABLY HARD-HEADED APPROACH TO BUDGETARY QUESTIONS.

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7. FROM THE SAME PERSPECTIVE AND LEAVING POLITICAL CON-  
SIDERATIONS ASIDE, IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO REDUCE FROM  
TWO TO ONE THE NUMBER OF GROUP B SEATS HELD BY THE LESS  
DEVELOPED MEMBERS. (TURKEY IS ONE OF THE MAJOR RECIPIENTS  
OF UNIDO TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND USUALLY SIDES WITH THE  
G-77 ON SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES; GREECE HAS NOT BEEN ACTIVE  
RECENTLY EITHER IN GROUP B OR IN THE IDB.) THIS WILL, OF  
COURSE, BE THE LAST CHANCE TO DO SO FOR ANOTHER THREE

YEARS IF BOTH GREECE AND TURKEY ARE RE-ELECTED.

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8. IF AUSTRALIA IS NOT SUCCESSFUL THIS YEAR AND DECIDES TO PURSUE ITS CANDIDACY IN 1979 OR 1980, IT WILL AGAIN HAVE TO PIN ITS MAIN HOPES ON PERSUADING THE NORDICS TO BE FLEXIBLE. TERMS EXPIRING IN 1979 ARE FINLAND, BELGIUM, ITALY, SWITZERLAND, AND AUSTRIA (THE HOST COUNTRY) AND IN 1980, NORWAY, U.S., JAPAN, FRANCE, AND NETHERLANDS. ALL OF THESE NON-NORDIC COUNTRIES PLAY IMPORTANT ROLES IN UNIDO AND WE FIND IT HARD TO ENVISAGE ANY OF THEM NOT SEEKING RE-ELECTION.

9. MISSION SUGGESTS THAT, AT THIS STAGE, BEST APPROACH FOR USG IS TO AVOID TAKING SIDES BUT, WHEN AND IF QUESTIONS ARISE, TO EXPRESS SYMPATHY FOR AUSTRALIAN DESIRES AND ENCOURAGE ANY INDICATION OF WILLINGNESS OF SWEDEN, GREECE OR TURKEY TO STAND ASIDE.

10. SITUATION COULD, OF COURSE, BE COMPLICATED IF MALTA DECIDES, AS IT DID LAST YEAR, TO PRESS ITS CANDIDACY FOR THE IDB. UK ALTERNATE PERMREP LAMONT TOLD MISSION AUGUST 18 THAT LONDON IS SOMEWHAT WORRIED ABOUT ITS OWN PROSPECTS IN SUCH A CIRCUMSTANCE. THE UK NOTED THE RELATIVELY LOW VOTE TOTAL THAT FRANCE RECEIVED IN LAST YEAR'S ELECTION. ITS NEW YORK MISSION REPORTED THAT THIS REFLECTED AN INCREASING BIAS AGAINST THE PERMANENT SECURITY COUNCIL MEMBERS WHICH MIGHT WORK AGAINST THE UK THIS YEAR IF ANOTHER SECRET BALLOT IS REQUIRED. LEARY

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## Message Attributes

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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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